

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A method for printing an image on a sheet of print medium comprising the steps of:

- 5        a) determining the size of the image;
- b) automatically selecting a normal printing mode for printing the image on the sheet when the determined image size can fit within a maximum printable area of the sheet for the normal printing mode, wherein the maximum printable area leaves an unprintable margin from at least one edge of the sheet; and
- 10      c) automatically selecting a borderless printing mode for printing the image on the sheet when the determined image size cannot fit within the maximum printable area, wherein the borderless printing mode leaves no unprintable margin from the at-least-one edge of the sheet, wherein steps a) through c) are performed by at least one computer program.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet is a rectangular sheet, wherein the image size is defined as the smallest size image rectangle that is aligned with the sheet and can contain the image, and wherein the maximum printable area is a rectangular maximum printable area aligned with the sheet.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the image size in step a) is defined by the corner locations of a pair of diagonally-opposite corners of the smallest size image rectangle.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the rectangular maximum printable area is defined by the corner locations of a pair of corresponding diagonally-opposite corners of the rectangular maximum printable area.

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5. The method of claim 4, also including the step of determining whether the determined image size can fit within the rectangular maximum printable area from the defined corner locations.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the maximum printable area leaves an unprintable margin from at least two edges of the sheet.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the maximum printable area leaves an unprintable margin from each of the edges of the sheet.
- 5    8. The method of claim 1, wherein the normal printing mode and the borderless printing mode are printing modes of an inkjet printer.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the automatically selecting of steps b) and c) is for use in printing from a computer printer, a copier, a facsimile machine, or an all-in-one machine which at least prints and copies.
- 10    10. The method of claim 1, wherein the fastest printing speed of the borderless printing mode is slower than the fastest printing speed of the normal printing mode.
- 15    11. The method of claim 10, wherein the borderless printing mode includes enlarging the image size so that step c) leaves no unprintable margin from the at-least-one edge of the sheet.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the image in step a) is a non-scanned image.
- 20    13. The method of claim 1, wherein the image in step a) is an autocropped scanned image.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the image in step a) is a user-cropped portion of a scanned photographic image.
- 25    15. A method for printing an image on a sheet of print medium comprising the steps of:
  - a) determining the size of the image;
  - b) automatically determining if the determined image size can fit within a maximum printable area of the sheet for a normal printing mode, wherein the maximum printable area is aligned with the sheet and leaves an unprintable margin from each edge of the sheet;

- c) automatically selecting the normal printing mode for printing the image on the sheet when the determined image size can fit within the maximum printable area; and
- d) automatically selecting a borderless printing mode for printing the image on the sheet when the determined image size cannot fit within the maximum printable area, wherein the borderless printing mode leaves no unprintable margin from two perpendicular edges of the sheet, wherein steps a) through d) are performed by at least one computer program.

10 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the image is a non-scanned image, and wherein a printing application computer program in a host computer performs steps a) through d).

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the image in step a) is a scanned image, wherein a scanning application computer program in a host computer scans the image into memory of the host computer, and wherein an autocropping algorithm in the host computer eliminates empty margins of the scanned image.

18. A method for printing an image on a sheet of print medium comprising the steps of:

- a) automatically selecting a normal printing mode for printing the image on the sheet when the image can fit within a maximum printable area of the sheet for the normal printing mode, wherein the maximum printable area leaves an unprintable margin from at least one edge of the sheet; and
- b) automatically selecting a borderless printing mode for printing the image on the sheet when the image cannot fit within the maximum printable area, wherein the borderless printing mode leaves no unprintable margin from the at-least-one edge of the sheet, wherein steps a) and b) are performed by at least one computer program.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the image is a non-scanned image, and wherein a printing application computer program in a host computer performs steps a) through d).

30 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the image in step a) is a scanned image, wherein a scanning application computer program in a host computer scans the image into

memory of the host computer, and wherein an autocropping algorithm in the host computer eliminates empty margins of the scanned image.